(c) if so, the details thereof

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) The requirement of LPG estimated for the current year (2006-07) in the country is 10793 TMT. Break-up of the estimated demand into Domestic & Non-domestic requirement is given below:

		Figures in TMT
Domestic	—	9785
Non-domestic	—	1008
		10793

.(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Indigenous production of LPG is inadequate to meet domestic requirement. The shortfall is met through import. Details of LPG demand, domestic production and imports for the last three years are given below:

Year	Demand	Production	Import
2003-04	9,305	7,651	1,708
2004-05	10,245	7,817	2,334
2005-06	10,456	7,717	2,883

Import of LNG from Australia

230. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to import LNG from Australia;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the price at which the LNG will be imported from Australia; and

(d) the details along with the details of ports through which the import of LNG is planned?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Petronet LNG Ltd. (PLL) is in advanced discussion for tie up of 2.5 Million Metric

Tonnes Per Annum (MMTPA) of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) from Gorgon Project, which is likely to be commissioned by 2012. Pricing of LNG would be indicated by the suppliers at the time of conclusion of the agreement, which is linked with financial closure of the project.

(d) The liquefaction and loading port facilities are planned by the suppliers at Barrow Island in North West offshore region of Australia, while in India it will be unloaded at Kochi Port.

Provision of piped cooking gas

231. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken a final decision to provide cooking gas pipelines in the country;

(b) if so, the details of the State which shall be given the first preference in this regard and particularly Uttar Pradesh;

(c) how far it shall be cheaper than the gas cylinders which are being provided to the public; and

(d) how far it shall be safer than the present gas cylinders?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) and (b) Presently Piped Natural Gas (PNG) is being provided in Delhi, Mumbai and Agartala by the Joint Venture Companies of Oil PSUs. Some private companies are providing Piped Natural Gas in the cities of Surat, Ankleshwar, Bharauch, Assam, Vadodara and Ahmedabad. The extension of PNG supplies to different parts of the country would depend upon the availability of gas, setting up of necessary infrastructure and economic viability.

(c) The price of Piped Natural Gas (PNG) is generally cheaper than Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG). However, a comparison of the prices at the consumer end will *inter-alia* depend upon factors such as level of subsidy on these fuels, level of taxation, availability of pipeline network and marketing/distribution costs.

(d) PNG is safer than LPG because it is lighter than air and in case of any leakage it disperses away in the atmosphere while LPG being heavier